

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER BOARD ADOPTS NEW PERMIT FOR WINERIES

Santa Rosa --The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a new permit March 28, 2002, that affects wineries on the North Coast. The "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste to Land," will apply to commercial wineries that discharge wastewater to land.

While the Regional Board has always issued permits for wineries with wastewater ponds, the new General Winery Permit now extends to those wineries that discharge waste to subsurface disposal systems (leachfields). The permit requires minimal monitoring requirements, but contains limitations designed to protect groundwater quality.

Most wineries with wastewater ponds should already have Waste Discharge Requirements from the Regional Board. These wineries will become subject to the General Winery Permit as their permits expire and will need to show that their ponds do not discharge into groundwater.

Wineries with wastewater systems should contact the Regional Board at (707) 576-2220 to see if they should apply for the new permit. More information is available on the Internet at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1.

For further information, call Mark Neely at (707) 576-2689.

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